

and borrowings from financial institutions, apart from attracting foreign direct investment into the sector.

Restoration of Power in Gujarat

1263. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage caused to power sector by recent earthquake in Gujarat; and

(b) the details of the steps taken to repair the damage and restoration of power in the affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No power plant was affected due to recent earthquake in Gujarat. However, the power system was severely damaged and there were heavy damages to sub-stations and electrical network particularly in Kutch district. According to the Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB), the total number of villages affected in Gujarat was 2462 and number of sub-stations and feeders affected were 52 and 723, respectively. About 56 teams of GEB consisting of engineers and line staff and teams of other organizations like POWERGRID, NTPC, MSEB, BSES, etc. (about 1000 persons) were immediately deployed to take up the rectification work. Power supply was restored in the districts of Rajkot, Surendranagar, Banaskantha and Jamnagar within 2 days and in the Kutch district by 12.2.2001.

Upgradation of Power Network

1264. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has sought Central assistance to upgrade power network in the respective State;

(b) if so, the names of these States;

(c) the step taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the fund sanctioned by the Central Electricity Authority to these States to upgrade Power network?